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Wednesday, 18 August 2004, 16:27

C O N F I D E N T I A L VATICAN 003196

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/WE: LEVIN; EUR/SE; EUR/ERA

EO 12958 DECL: 08/18/2014

TAGS EU, PHUM, PREL, SOCI, TU, VT

SUBJECT: VATICAN STILL OPEN TO TURKEY'S EU BID

REF: A. 03 VATICAN 1164

1B. 03 VATICAN 5666 C. 03 VATICAN 5748

Classified By: Charge d'affaires D. Brent Hardt. Reasons 1.5 (b) and ( d).

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Summary

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1. (C) Acting Holy See Foreign Minister Parolin reaffirmed August 18 that the Holy See remained open to Turkish EU membership, notwithstanding

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Holy See Still Open to Turkish EU Membership

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2. (C) Acting Vatican Foreign Minister equivalent Monsignor Pietro Parolin told Charge August 18 that the Holy See remained open to Turkish EU

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Turkey's EU Bid: Complexities, but no Great Obstacles

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3. (C) While Parolin discounted Ratzinger's comments -- that Turkey had always been "in permanent contrast to Europe" and that linking it to E

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At Odds with Papal Muslim Outreach

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4. (C) Charge pointed out that as an EU member, Turkey could help to ease tensions between the Western and Muslim worlds, illustrating how a s  
outreach to the Muslim world, the Charge observed. Parolin acknowledged this contradiction, and indicated that he believed it was possible that

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Clarification Possible

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5. (C) Charge noted the public confusion generated when a senior Vatican official as influential as Cardinal Ratzinger makes a political state

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Comment

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6. (C) As we saw most notably during the Iraq war when individual Cardinals offered personal criticism of USG policy (refs b, c), the media of  
HARDT

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